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Radiation News Clips

Aug 13, 2015

EPA

McCarthy Says Colorado Mining Spill Halts EPA Work at Similar Sites (bna)

http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=74279411&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0h1f5x1w8&split=0

The EPA's regional offices will immediately halt field investigations at mines with tailings facilities in the aftermath of the 3-million-gallon release of toxic mine waste in southwest Colorado, EPA Administrator McCarthy says. "While we continue to investigate the root causes of last week's release of mining waste at the Gold King Mine in Colorado, we are instructing our regions to immediately cease any field investigation work at mines including tailings facilities, unless there is imminent risk in a specific case," McCarthy says at a briefing in Durango, Colo.

Radioactive Waste

North Korea is stepping up uranium production — but for power or nukes? (WP)

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/north-korea-is-stepping-up-uranium-production--but-for-power-or-nukes/2015/08/13/0238f8f6-413f-11e5-9f53-d1e3ddfd0cda_story.html?hpid=z5

North Korea has been stepping up its capacity to mine and mill uranium, new satellite imagery shows, raising fears that Kim Jong Un's regime is trying to expand its stockpile of nuclear weapons.

German waste disposal plan approved (wnn)

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/WR-German-waste-disposal-plan-approved-1308154.html>

Following a strategic environmental assessment and public consultation, the German cabinet yesterday adopted a draft national **radioactive waste disposal program** proposed by the country's environment ministry.

Yucca Mountain

Vt. regulator to lead pro-Yucca coalition (Greenwire)

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060023353/search?keyword=nuclear>

A coalition that has promoted construction of the contentious Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in Nevada announced yesterday the selection of a Vermont regulator and former consumer advocate as its executive director.

TENORM

N.D. moves toward accepting radioactive fracking waste (Greenwire)

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1060023321/search?keyword=radioactive>

Landowners and environmental groups have criticized the proposal as too lax, but the state Health Department said it could cut down on illegal dumping of the waste, known as technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material (TENORM).

Cleanup

Nuke Waste Cleanup Delayed Again As Costs Double (dailycaller.com)

<http://dailycaller.com/2015/08/12/nuke-waste-cleanup-delayed-again-as-costs-double/>

Radioactive waste won't be treated at an aging South Carolina nuclear site until 2018 – nearly a decade later than planned and for more than double the original price, a government watchdog reported Wednesday. The Salt Waste Processing Facility at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina was supposed to be finished by 2008 at a cost of \$900 million to treat 37 million gallons of radioactive waste stored underground, according to a Department of Energy inspector general report.

Hanford

Hanford whistleblower settles for \$4.1 million (seattletimes.com)

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/hanford-whistleblower-settles-for-4-1-million/>

A whistleblower on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation has reached a \$4.1 million settlement with his former employer on the former nuclear weapons production site in Washington state, his lawyer said Wednesday.

Safety and Security

Why it's impossible to hide nuclear work in 24 days – or 24 years (reuters)

<http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2015/08/13/why-its-impossible-to-hide-nuclear-work-in-24-days-or-24-years/>

One of the most misleading distortions being floated by political opponents of the Iran nuclear deal is the “24-day loophole meme: Iran would be able to hide all evidence of any nefarious nuclear weapons work during the 24 days it may take inspectors to gain access to a suspicious site.

Nuclear Power

Nuclear Reactor Automatically Shuts Down in Belgium (Sputniknews)

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150813/1025699277.html>

One of the three reactors in Belgium's Tihange Nuclear Power Station has automatically shut down, a spokeswoman for Electrabel, the largest energy producer in Belgium, said Thursday.

Why was the Sendai nuclear power plant restarted? (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists)

<http://thebulletin.org/why-was-sendai-nuclear-power-plant-restarted8644>

Two of Japan's reactors—Units 1 and 2 of the Kyushu Electric Power Company's Sendai **nuclear power plant**—have just restarted, and Unit 1.

Other

Republicans Meet With Netanyahu to Discuss Iran Nuclear Deal (NYT)

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/08/13/republicans-meet-with-netanyahu-to-discuss-iran-nuclear-deal/>

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not directly advise visiting Republican members of Congress how to vote on the Iran nuclear deal, the leader of the delegation told reporters on Thursday. The head of a Democratic Congressional group that visited Israel last week had said the same thing to journalists. “He doesn’t tell us how to vote but he lays out concerns for the future about what the world could look like,” said Representative Kevin McCarthy of California, the House majority leader who is spending the week in Israel along with 35 mostly new members.